

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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138 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

PRESS RELEASE

July 21, 2005

RE: UNITED STATES v. FRANK CANNATA

Acting United States Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter announced that on July 20, 2005 Frank Cannata, age 41, of Grand Island, New York, pled guilty before the Honorable H. Kenneth Schroeder, Jr., United States Magistrate Judge to a one (1) count misdemeanor Information, charging him with violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 844(a) (possession of methamphetamine and MDMA), which carries a maximum possible sentence of a term of imprisonment of 1 year, a fine of at least \$1,000 and up to \$100,000, or both, a mandatory \$50 special assessment and a term of supervised release of 1 year.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Clare Kane, who handled the case, stated that the complaint charges the defendant Cannata with possession of 5 grams of crystal methamphetamine and 14 Ecstasy pills. The drugs were seized during the execution of a federal search warrant at Cannata's residences in the City of Buffalo. Cannata was the Principal at the Charlotte Sidway Elementary School and the organist at St. Stephen's

Roman Catholic Church, both on Grand Island, New York. He has, since his arrest, been removed from both of those positions.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), under the direction of Peter J. Smith, Special Agent-in-Charge, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), under the direction of Nancy Cote, Special Agent-in-Charge, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Jeffrey Sayward, Assistant Inspector in Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for September 28, 2005 before the Hon. H. Kenneth Schroeder, Jr., United States Magistrate Judge at 10:00 a.m.

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